NOAA's Clean Water Initiative

$22 Million in FY 2000

NOAA's FY 2000 $22 million request, an increase of $5.8 million in new funding, will provide the financial assistance necessary for coastal states to develop and implement programs to control polluted runoff from agricultural areas, city streets, and other sources. This funding will also support the research and monitoring essential to finding the sources and solutions to the spread of harmful algal blooms, such as Pfiesteria, often associated with polluted coastal waters. NOAA's Clean Water Initiative is a modest investment to help restore and protect our valuable coastal waters that support billions of dollars of economic activity every year through tourism, recreation and commercial fishing.

Control of Harmful Algal Blooms - $9.0 million

Polluted runoff often carries large amounts of nutrients that can contaminate coastal waters. Harmful algal blooms (HAB's) are often associated with high levels of nutrient pollution. This funding, an increase of $1.8 million under this initiative, will allow NOAA and its academic partners to continue to be leaders in the research, monitoring, and assessment of HAB's to better predict and prevent HAB events.

State Partnerships to Reduce Polluted Runoff - $ 12.0 million

$12 million in FY 2000, an increase of $4 million, will provide coastal states with funding to fully develop and implement their Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs. This will significantly improve their ability to manage polluted runoff and reduce coastal water pollution. NOAA administers the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program in partnership with states that have approved Coastal Zone Management (CZM) programs.

Protect and Restore our Coastal Resources - $ 1.0 million

$1 million in FY 2000 will reduce the flow of pollutants from hazardous waste sites into our coastal waters. NOAA's Coastal Resource Coordination program works at hazardous waste sites to protect and restore coastal resources and their habitats, including the water and sediments necessary to support a healthy ecosystem. The request will enable NOAA to address a broader range of waste sites and provide critical technical assistance to States and communities, improving the health of our coastal waters and the resources they support.

Taking Action Now

Polluted runoff is now a major source of coastal water pollution. Communities, businesses, and human health are being increasingly threatened by polluted runoff and the damaging consequences of polluted coastal waters. Every year, degraded water quality causes warnings or closures of thousands of beaches, and nearly thirty percent of U.S. shellfish growing areas continue to be restricted or closed, resulting in significant losses to tourism, recreation, and seafood industries. Harmful algal blooms like Pfiesteria, red tides, and brown tides, which are frequently associated with polluted waters, have impacted nearly every coastal state and produced an estimated $1 billion in economic losses in coastal communities over the past twenty years.

The increasing frequency and magnitude of these problems demands that significant action be taken **now** to restore and protect the health of our vital coastal waters. NOAA has the authorities, capabilities, and partnerships critical to successfully reduce polluted runoff and meet the challenges of the interagency Clean Water Action Plan for our Nation's coastal waters.

NOAA's Clean Water Initiative

NOAA FY2000 Budget Breakout of Clean Water Initiative

OR&F Budget Structure	(dollars in millions) FY2000	Purpose
Ocean Resources Conservation & Assessment		
Oceanic & Coastal Research	$ 1.0	Charleston Lab Pfiesteria / HAB Research
Ocean Assessment Program	$ 5.2	HAB Research, Monitoring & Assessment
	$ 1.0	CRC Program
Coastal Ocean Science	$ 2.8	ECOHAB Research Program
Subtotal	$ 10.0	
Ocean and Coastal Management		
CZMA Section 306 / 309 Grants	$ 6.0	Program implementation grants
Nonpoint Pollution Control	$ 6.0	Program development grants
Subtotal	$ 12.0	
Clean Water Initiative -- Total	**$ 22.0**	

Control of Harmful Algal Blooms - $9.0 million

The requested funds will support partnership efforts that include:

- interagency cooperation through the ECOHAB research programs to develop models for forecasting the development and impacts of HABs;
- strengthening NOAA-state partnerships for improving HAB monitoring and assessment capabilities;
- development of capabilities to assist states in responding quickly to HAB events; and
- research on the linkages of coastal eutrophication, HABs, and hypoxia/anoxia to nutrient loads in coastal ecosystems.

State Partnerships to Reduce Polluted Runoff - $ 12.0 million

The requested funds will support State efforts to reduce polluted runoff, as follows:

- $6 million, an increase of $2 million from FY 1999, for grants to CZM states for development of coastal runoff control programs. By FY 1999, twenty-nine CZM states will have approved Coastal Nonpoint Control Programs, though certain portions of these programs need further development. In addition, four states that have either recently or will soon join the Coastal Zone Management program (Texas, Georgia, Ohio, Minnesota) need resources to fully develop approvable Coastal Nonpoint Programs.
- $6 million, an increase of $2 million from FY 1999, for CZM Section 306/309 grants to CZM states for implementation of their coastal runoff control programs. These grants will allow coastal states to implement on-the-ground management measures, and leverage other state and local resources, to control the flow of polluted runoff into coastal waters.

Protect and Restore our Coastal Resources - $ 1.0 million

The requested funds will enable NOAA to:

- work with EPA and other agencies to assess ecological risk and develop protective cleanups strategies at hundreds of coastal waste sites each year;
- address a broader range of sites, including state-lead cleanups, military and active industrial facilities, and solid waste sites that are polluting our coastal waters; and
- provide more technical assistance to States and communities impacted by hazardous waste and Brownfields sites.

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